MARVEL

8

LGY#656

ZDARSKY
CHECCHETTO
WILSON

DAREDEVIL

Be a *good* man. Lift up people who need it.

Fight *evil* where it infects others.

Good and evil--ideas I've had a hard time with lately.

COLE? YOU SURE YOU WANT TO--?

YEAH. A KID'S IN DANGER. I'M *IN*. IT'S ALL JUST SO *SURREAL*, I...

FIND LANCE. PROTECT HIM.

I'LL KEEP THE *DEVILS* AT BAY.

There are evil actions but no evil men.

Just people who have lost their way. *That's* evil's infection. That's the *heart* of what I've been trying to do here.

ALL RIGHT! YOU ALL HAVE YOUR ORDERS! DON'T HOLD BACK!

CHWOOOOO

But *the Hand* is *different*. They're literally *hell-born*.

An *infected Frank Castle* is *different*.

You don't put instruments of *Hell* into *therapy*.

You send them *home*.

GO! GO! GO!

You send them to Hell.

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WHEN MATT MURDOCK WAS A KID, HE LOST HIS SIGHT IN AN ACCIDENT INVOLVING RADIOACTIVE CHEMICALS. THOUGH HE COULD NO LONGER SEE, THE CHEMICALS HEIGHTENED MURDOCK'S OTHER SENSES AND IMBUED HIM WITH AN AMAZING 360-DEGREE RADAR SENSE. NOW MATT USES HIS ABILITIES TO FIGHT FOR HIS CITY AS...

DAREDEVIL

DAREDEVIL IS **MARRIED**.

CENTURIES AGO, A GROUP NAMED THE FIST WAS FORMED TO STAND IN OPPOSITION TO THE SADISTIC AND VIOLENT NINJA CLAN **THE HAND**. AFTER A GRUELING RITUAL, **MATT MURDOCK** AND **ELEKTRA NATCHIOS** HAVE EMERGED AS THE FIST'S KING AND QUEEN.

MATT AND ELEKTRA BROKE INTO THE MYRMIDON AND OFFERED THE INCARCERATED CRIMINALS THERE AN OPPORTUNITY TO REHABILITATE THEMSELVES AT THE FIST'S ISLAND STRONGHOLD IN EXCHANGE FOR THEIR AID AGAINST THE HAND.

THE HAND HAS KIDNAPPED AN UNKNOWN NUMBER OF WORLD LEADERS AND REPLACED THEM WITH DEATH-WORSHIPPING PUPPETS, FRAMING ELEKTRA FOR THE ASSASSINATION OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES IN THE PROCESS. EMBOLDENED BY THEIR NEW LEADER, **THE PUNISHER**, THE HAND HAS MADE THEIR NEXT MOVE BY KIDNAPPING THE SON OF ONE OF MATT'S NEW RECRUITS, THE CRIMINAL **BULLET**, FORCING MATT AND ELEKTRA TO FINALLY TAKE THEIR FLEDGLING army TO WAR!

THE RED FIST SAGA
PART 8

VC's CLAYTON COWLES
LETTERER

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COME ON, YOU BASTARD.

I thought all of God's creatures could be saved.

HRRRRR--

But you don't belong to God, do you? Maybe you *never* have.

You're a *butcher.* Twisted up in *hellfire* and *dark magic.*

And it ends *now.*

RAHH!

KIDNAPPING A KID, AKA? THAT'S A $#@%& MOVE, EVEN FROM YOU.

AH, STICK, OLD FRIEND.

I KNEW YOU'D COME. THE PROPHECIES ARE SO CLEAR...

...EVEN THE BLIND COULD READ THEM.

OR MAYBE ONE OF YOUR PROTÉGÉS READ THEM TO YOU.

HR!

AHHH!

WHAT IF YOU COULDN'T HEAR THEIR WORDS WHEN THEY TOLD YOU...

...THAT THE FIST LOSES TODAY?

THAT YOUR KING AND QUEEN BOTH FALL.

IF WE FALL...

...WE'LL DRAG YOU DOWN WITH US!

It's too unreal.

They're already dead.

Zombies. Lifeless and moving.

I keep telling myself this, but I know this day will still haunt me.

But it'll haunt someone else more.

Remember, Cole. Think past the horror.

This is about ***Lance.*** The boy.

And his father. Controlled by these ***monsters.*** By some ***talisman.***

I may die today.

But at least I'll die for ***something.***

I TOLD YOU TO *ABANDON* THIS MADNESS, FRANK!*

YOU'RE BEING *USED!*

*SEE PUNISHER #7! --ED

YOU THINK I *CARE?* YOU THINK I CARE ABOUT *ANYTHING...*

...BUT THE *MISSION?!*

SCHLAH

HNNN...

YOU BLEEDING *HEART!* YOU *PHONY!*

YOU RELEASED *MURDERERS!*

I LET YOU *LIVE* UNTIL NOW 'CAUSE YOU AT LEAST GOT SCUM *OFF* THE STREET!

BUT LETTING YOU *BREATHE...*

...IS LIKE PUTTING A *GUN* IN A KILLER'S HAND.

FWOO

I CAN-- NGH--CONTROL... REPTILIAN CREATURES... BUT WITH THIS *MAGNIFICENT* BEAST...

...ALL *STEGRON* CAN DO IS KEEP THEM OFF-BALANCE...

THAT'S ALL I NEED! GET READY, WRECKER!

DO IT!

SCHH

HRH!

SKRAHHH!!

My soldiers work together.

A common goal.

How much is to help fight evil and how much is to simply *fight?*

And does it matter?

Their hearts can be one thing and their actions can be another.

Does the *rush* of battle--the self-satisfied feeling of *helping*--negate the good done?

They *do* good.

That's what will be remembered today, win or lose.

We did *good.*

We fought *evil.*

YOU *READY,* DINO?

STEGRON IS ALWAYS READY.

If *death* comes, we fought for *God.*

And that's all that matters.

THUD

Fist-enhanced. ***Indestructible shield.***

GO HOME, COP.

THIS AIN'T YOUR FIGHT.

And I still can't get my ***footing.***

HRK!

Bullet is a ***monster*** of a man.

But luckily...

...I now *travel* with monsters.

HRKK! WHAT THE #$@$--?

I'VE BEEN *LEARNING*, BULLET

...ABOUT *CONTROL*, ABOUT *FOCUS*

ABOUT *NHH*...

YOU GOOD, AGONY?

I CAN... PUPPET HIM BACK TO... A SHIP...

WE'LL *FIX* HIM WHEN WE GET BACK TO BASE. *GO*...

I'm okay with dying. Dying for something...

...but that won't be *today.*

...I'VE GOT THIS.

IT'S OKAY, LANCE...

WH-WHO ARE Y-YOU...?

I'M A FRIEND OF DAREDEVIL'S.

WE'RE HERE TO SAVE YOU AND YOUR DAD.

NOW... CAN YOU DO ME A FAVOR?

CAN YOU PUT THIS *SHIELD* ON YOUR BACK?

AND KEEP BEING BRAVE?

"YOUR GOD IS DEAD!"

YOU KNOW HOW I *KNOW*?! DO YOU?!

HIS *BLOOD* RAINED *DOWN* ON ME! *BLOOD* THAT RAN THROUGH MY *WIFE*! MY *CHILDREN*!

I'M *AVENGING YOUR GOD*!

I'M-- HK!

FRANK...

HN!

...SHUT UP.

YOU'RE ALL OUT OF BULLETS.

ALL OUT OF BLADES.

YOU HAVE NOTHING. YOU ARE NOTHING.

HRRR--

AND YOU'RE WRONG. GOD IS VERY MUCH ALIVE.

HRK!

HE LETS YOU BREATHE HIS AIR EVERY DAY.

HRK--
NH!

BUT MAYBE HE SENT ME--

--TO FINALLY REMEDY THAT.

TO BE YOUR PUNISHER.

SKRAAA!

"SO, YOU CAME TO KILL."

HRAH!

WHY ELSE THROW AWAY YOUR DULL SAIS?

THE ONES YOU USED TO CON YOUR WEAK MATTHEW...

...INTO BELIEVING YOU WERE SOME MORALISTIC HERO.

HN! YOU DON'T KNOW EITHER OF US!

HNN!

I KNOW WEAKNESS WHEN I SEE IT.

THIS IS DESTINY, ELEKTRA.

THIS IS--

SHNK

SORRY I'M LATE. NINJA BASTARDS KNOCKED ME FLAT ON MY ASS FOR A BIT.

MATTHEW...

HRRR... CAN'T CONTROL HER...

HOLY #$@...

My magic-heightened senses.

I feel everything.

IT'S OKAY, GIRL.

SHHAK!

I feel its heart. Its *soul.*

No creature is born evil.

IT'S OKAY.

YOU'RE FREE.

MATTHEW!

The dragon is free.

The boy is free.

I hear it all.

My people are losing. More ***Hand*** reinforcements are coming.

My wife is dying.

It's time to let go.

HN!

GOTCHA, BOSS MAN.

TAKE US HOME, STILT-MAN.

Your prophecy is fulfilled, dammit.

HRRR... WHAT--?
THEY'RE OVERMATCHED.
THEY LOST. AS FORETOLD IN--
"ELEKTRA..."
...ARE YOU...?
I'LL LIVE, MY LOVE...
...MAYBE EVEN FOREVER.
THE *LUNATE TALISMAN.* THE SECRET TO *THE HAND'S* RESURRECTION POWERS...
AKA WAS... TOO BUSY STABBING ME TO NOTICE-- -KOFF!-
...BUT WE STILL LOST.
WE DID.
WE NEED TO DEFEAT THE HAND.
WE WILL.

BUT NOT BECAUSE OF SOME PROPHECY. NOT BECAUSE WE'RE FORCED INTO BATTLE.

WE'LL FIGHT THEM ON OUR OWN TERMS. AND NOW THAT WE HAVE THE TALISMAN...

"...WE'RE GOING TO WIN."

THEY SLIPPED UP.

SOME DAMNED MAGIC VEIL WAS HIDING THEM, BUT THEY LEFT THE VEIL.

AND NOW THEY'RE HEADED BACK TO THEIR BASE.

SOMEONE ON THE *INSIDE* HAS SEEN THE LIGHT AND GIVEN US HIS EXACT COORDINATES.

THEY BROKE *MURDERERS* OUT OF PRISON. WE HAVE A *RESPONSIBILITY* TO--

I KNOW, CAP. I KNOW... WHAT HAS TO BE DONE.

DAREDEVIL NEEDS TO BE STOPPED.

NEXT ISSUE

ZONE